

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-19 were pending prior to the Office Action. No claims have been added through this reply. Claims 3-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter included therein. Therefore, claims 1, 5, 7-9, 11-19 are pending. Claims 5, 7-9, 11-12, 14, and 16 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 5, 9, and 13-16 are independent. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks a timely allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable by Uchida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,930,661) in view of Trovato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,306). Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable by Uchida and Trovato in view of Hakamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,870,492). Claim 17* stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable by “Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,837) in further view of Trovato.” Claims 18-19* stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable by “Miura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,996,837) and Trovato...in further view of Hakamada.” Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. *The Examiner has failed to identify the reference of Uchida et al. (USP 6,930,661) in the section headings of dependent claims 17-19. The Examiner is respectfully requested to correct the rejection heading of dependent claims 17-19 in the next correspondence.

Argument: Features of claims 1, 13, and 15 not disclosed by cited prior art

The claimed invention of independent claims 1, 13, and 15 includes the following features:

- (i) The tuner section included in the wireless center, responsive to the input operation by the user, performs the channel scan, and the wireless center generates, in accordance with a result of the channel scan, the channel identification information including the skip information indicative of whether or not a station

- has been registered for each channel and then transmits the channel identification information to the AV output device; and
- (ii) The channel identification information including the skip information received from the wireless center is stored in the AV output device, and the AV output device generates, responsive to the up-down input operation by the user and in accordance with the channel identification information stored in the AV output device, the direct command for causing the tuner section to directly select a channel corresponding to the up-down input operation and then transmits the direct command to the wireless center.

The claimed invention provides numerous benefits. For example, the claimed invention brings about an effect of "...at the wireless center unit 3, there is no need of decoding and converting the up-down channel selection command to a direct channel selection command. This shortens a delay time involved in the interval time for exchanging commands, thereby improving a response to the user's input for up-down channel selection." (See specification, lines 13-19 of page 30.)

In contrast to the claimed invention, the cited prior art (Uchida, Trovato, and Hakamada) fail to disclose the above features (i) and (ii).

Specifically, Uchida merely discloses that a control signal corresponding to an up/down key of a channel is formed and then wirelessly transmitted to a base apparatus 200. Thus, Uchida fails to disclose the features (i) and (ii).

Further, Trovato fails to consider that data is wirelessly transmitted/received to/from the wireless center having the tuner section and the AV output device having the channel selection input section.

Also, Trovato discloses a technique such that: lists 251, 252, 253...into which channels on which programs are being currently broadcasted are categorized, are created, a list is selected in accordance with an instruction from a user to select a category, a channel corresponding to an up/down operation by a user is extracted from the list thus selected, and the number of the channel is transmitted from a remote control 100 to a channel selector 110. Namely, the lists described in Trovato are the lists into which channels on which programs are being currently broadcasted are categorized, and each of the lists is different from the channel identification

information of the claimed invention including the skip information indicative of whether or not a station has been registered for each channel. Accordingly, Trovato fails to disclose the features (i) and (ii).

The Examiner should note that according to Trovato's technique, it is necessary to continually update the lists 251, 252, 253... whether or not there is an input of the instruction from the user, as is clear from the Trovato's description – "That is, for example, the list builder will have access to a real-time clock, and will continually update the lists to reflect the programs in each category that are scheduled to be broadcast at the current time, or within some time span of the current time." (See Trovato, lines 3-7 of col. 6.) Accordingly, it is not easy for a person skilled in the art to change the arrangement of Trovato to the arrangement (see the feature (i) of the claimed invention) in which the channel scan is performed responsive to the instruction from the user to perform the channel scan. This is because such a change does not fulfill the object of Trovato.

The Examiner should also note that according to Trovato's technique, it is necessary to continually update the lists 251, 252, 253...and it is therefore necessary to provide, in an identical apparatus, (a) receiving means (a tuner section) for receiving an information source 120 and (b) storage means in which the lists 251, 252, 253...are stored. Namely, a change in arrangement of Trovato to an arrangement such that the receiving means (the tuner section) for receiving the information source 120 and a list builder 250 are provided in the channel selector 110 and the lists 251, 252, 253...are provided in the remote control 100 requires communication between the channel selector 110 and the remote control 100 to be continually performed so that the lists are continually updated. Accordingly, it is not easy for a person skilled in the art to change the arrangements of Trovato to (a) an arrangement of the claimed invention in which the tuner section is provided in the wireless center and a command conversion section is provided in the AV output device with which the wireless center performs communication and (b) the arrangement (see the feature (ii) of the claimed invention) in which the channel identification information is stored in the AV output device. This is because such a change does not fulfill the object of Trovato.

Lastly, Hakamada fails to consider that data is wirelessly transmitted/received to/from the wireless center having the tuner section and the AV output device having the channel selection input section. Based on this, Hakamada fails to disclose the features (i) and (ii).

In sum, the cited prior art (Uchida, Trovato, and Hakamada) fail to disclose the above features (i) and (ii). Therefore, claims 1, 13, and 15 are submitted to be allowable over Uchida, Trovato, and Hakamada for at least the above reasons.

Dependent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regards to the independent claims at least based on their dependency on the independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 are respectfully requested for at least the above reasons.

Conclusion

Therefore, for at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be distinguishable over the combination of Uchida, Trovato, and Hakamada, individually or in any combination. It has been shown above that the cited references, individually or in combination, may not be relied upon to show at least these features. Therefore, claims 1, 13, 15, and 17-19 are distinguishable over the cited references.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

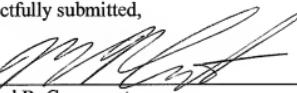
Applicants respectfully request that the pending application be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Aslan Ettehadieh (Reg. No. 62,278) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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